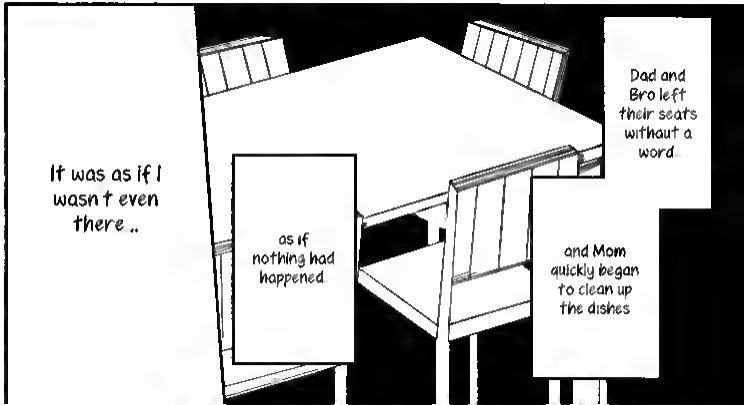
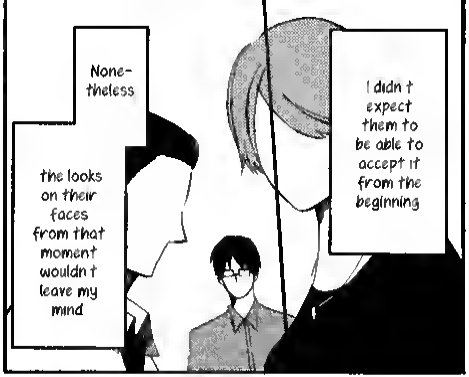
HARUFUMI ACHI
在智はるふみ
Home Sick Baby
When I eat the onigiri that has captured your heart...
ホームシックベイビー

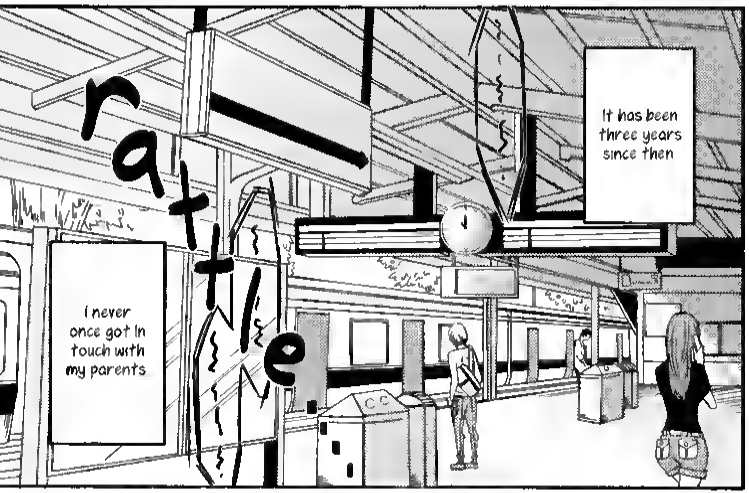
I... LIKE MEN.
In a moment of resolution those words flowed from my lips
I wanted to live an honest life

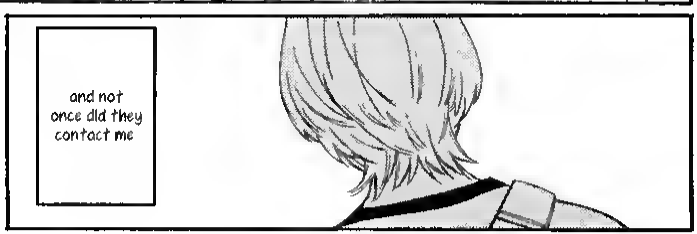

It was as if I wasn't even there..
as if nothing had happened
Dad and Bro left their seats without a word
and Mom quickly began to clean up the dishes

By the time I'd realized it I had run away from home


Nonetheless
the looks on their faces from that moment wouldn't leave my mind
I didn't expect them to be able to accept it from the beginning

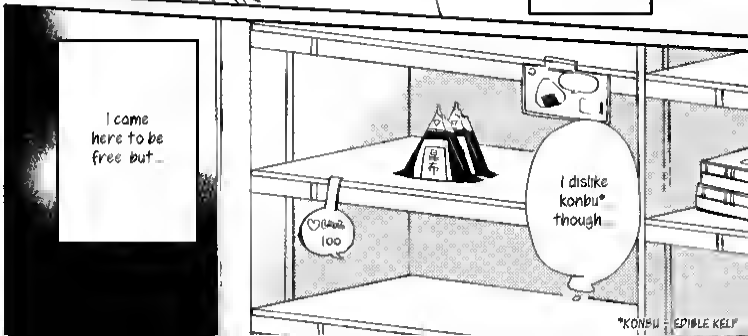
rattle.


It has been three years since then
I never once got in touch with my parents


and not once did they contact me

When I was at home, I used to eat so much that I would fight with Bro over Mom's homemade dishes
Yet now the thought of eating is no longer appealing.
Today, I'm going to have cup noodles, roasted barley tea, and onigiri*.
Recently, they are just so-so...
*ONIGIRI - RICE BALL

stare
When I get hungry,
I eat just to fill my stomach.


I came here to be free but...
I dislike konbu* though...
*KONBU - EDIBLE KELP

I'm simply living but not alive
THAT WILL BE 420 YEN PLEASE
Now, I no longer know what it is that I want.
I'D LIKE THE NUMBER 37 CIGARETTES
YES
WOULD YOU LIKE CHOPSTICKS TO GO WITH THAT?
AH?
HEY, YOU.
That will be 300 yen please.

Man, he's good looking.
Plus, he's my ty, e...
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
YOU LOOK PALE, ARE YOU OKAY?
...YOU KNOW,
IT'S BECAUSE ALL YOU'RE EATING IS THIS SORT OF JUNK
THAT YOUR SKIN HAS TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF JELLYFISH TONE!
Jelly-fish?
What's with this person...?
WA
SAYING THESE SORTS OF THINGS...
THAT BEING SAID, ONII-SAN*, AREN'T YOU EATING JUNK, TOO? YOUR ONIGIRI.
AH~?
*ONII-SAN - A FORM OF ENDEARMENT TO CALL AN OLDER BROTHER.
IN THIS CASE USED IN R
FOR A YOUNG
THAT'S OLDER.

ALTHOUGH THIS ONGIRI IS AN ONIGIRI,
MINE IS ACTUALLY SPECIAL.
smile
tighten
~mm!
tighten
tighten
Oh, gosh...
ACTUALLY, I'M THINKING OF HEADING TO THE PARK FOR LUNCH AGAIN TODAY
ER- HM
Thank you very much
I can't believe I'm getting so worked up
In that case...
HEY, ONII-SAN!
Anyway, he's not married

It's alright to play around a little right?

MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

It's as he looks, he's neat
Whether it's his clothes or watch he has pretty decent stuff on him
(Even though he has facial hair.)

WELL
I'M JUST A MERE COMPANY EMPLOYEE.
UM, HM.
MY NAME IS KITAOKA.
I'M 31.
EH?
YUP

KIND OF GOOD LOOKING?
MAKE THAT VERY GOOD LOOK-ING
I'M A MERE FREETER WITH A FACE
THAT IS KIND OF GOOD LOOKING.
I'M YUU-SUKE.
But still...

in cloud nine~
So, do you have a lover?
If you don't have one- there's this exceptional beauty right before you that I could introduce to you
Ah- Lover, eh?

HA-HAHA!
What a warm smile this person has...

RIGHT NOW, THIS IS MY LOVER.
THIS.
Young people nowadays (Don't know anything!)
That's how much one should respect an onigiri!
Huh?
WHEN I WAS A CHILD.. I WAS A GRANDMA'S BOY.

I LOVED THE ONIGIRI MY GRANDMA, WHO LIVED IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE, MADE.
yummy yummy
BUT AFTER I GREW UP,
This is tough!
I CAME TO REALIZE THAT THOSE ONIGIRI WERE NOT SOMETHING ORDINARY THAT I COULD EAT ANY TIME.
IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE GRANDMA MADE THEM FOR ME,
THAT THE ONIGIRI WERE SO DELICIOUS...

AND SO, WHENEVER I HAVE THE TIME, USING CAREFULLY HANDPICKED INGREDIENTS, I MAKE ONIGIRI
EATING THEM AT THE PARK LIKE THIS IS MY INTEREST.
WHAT THE HELL? THAT'S A STRANGE INTEREST!
IS THAT SO?

IT'S RIDICULOUS. YOU CAN FIND ONIGIRI IN CONVENIENCE STORES AND ANYONE CAN MAKE IT
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME
YOU IDIOT!
That's close-
DO YOU EVEN COUNT YOURSELF AS A JAPANESE?
ALRIGHT ONIGIRI CAN BE MADE EVEN BY MACHINES NOWADAYS
♡NM
BUT STILL, IT'S SAID THAT THE ONIGIRI MADE BY PEOPLE WITH LOVE IN THEIR HEARTS ARE SPECIAL
REALLY ?
Che
I MEAN, YUUSUKE...
DON'T YOU FIND YOUR MOTHER'S ONIGIRI SPECIAL?

RUSTLE
NOT PARTICU-LARLY

I can't not forget about it

...because I was the one who chose to turn my back against my family in order to be free

I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN...

THE TASTE OF MOM'S COOKING AND SUCH

I can't ask for that sort of warmth after coming so far

Pat
WH-
WHAT?
ARE YOU FREE THIS TIME TOMORROW?
ERM.
doki
doki
YEAH.
ruffle
THEN, I'LL SEE YOU HERE AT THE SAME TIME TOMORROW.
Ah, what is this feeling?
It's so familiar
I'LL BE WAITING!!

What_
was that?

Yuu-
suke
Hey!
W-wash
your
hands
pro-
perly
first.
...
I...
had a
dream
of the
past.
scrub
scrub
scrub
I feel like
crying,
but I'm
probably
just
thinking
too much
into it.
clang

HELLO
HI
WHAT'S WRONG, YUUSUKE? YOU LOOK PALE AGAIN TODAY.
Oh, well,
it's probably because I had a dream about you and I doing some really awesome things together
HERE!
EAT IT
...
REAL-LY?
ANY-WAY
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
YUP!
IT'S FOR ME?

Having someone make something just for me,
AH... I MEAN,
IT'S HUGE.
OF COURSE~ I PUT IN QUITE SOME THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND THAT'S HOW IT TURNED OUT.
HM?
how long has it been ?
YESTERDAY
I TOLD YOU THAT AN ONIGIRI THAT IS MADE WITH LOVE IS SPECIAL, DIDN'T I?
OKAY.
SO, HERE IT IS, MY SPECIAL ONIGIRI!
SO, DIG IN AND GRADUATE FROM BEING A JELLYFISH!

bite
IT'S DELICIOUS

IT'S VERY DELICIOUS.
PAT
Warm... soft...
gentle onigiri
Ah yes...
it's this feeling again...

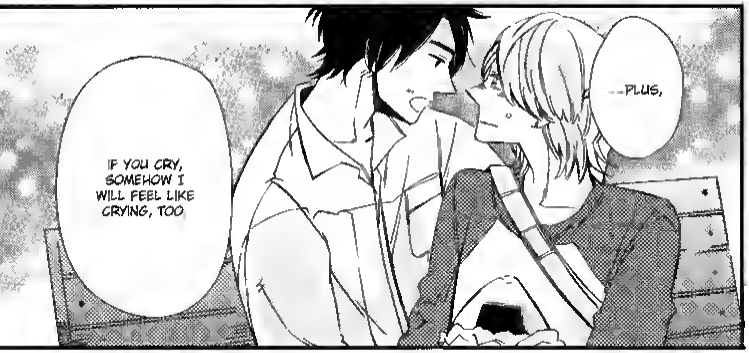
which is similar

to Mom...

It's all a lie that
I've forgotten
The truth is that
I do remember

The taste of Mom's cooking,
I remember it clearly.
I MISS HER.
HM?
MY MOTHER
I WANT TO MEET HER

YUUSUKE.
DON'T CRY.
THE ONIGIRI WILL TURN SALTY.


...PLUS,
IF YOU CRY, SOMEHOW I WILL FEEL LIKE CRYING, TOO.

Aha.
MAN...
SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO COMFORT ME,
AT LEAST DO IT WITH A KISS...
OR SOMETHING
Grab

turn

HMM?
AH?
WHY?

Er
Oh man...
?
SHOULD I NOT HAVE DONE IT?
I convinced myself that I wasn't lonely or anything
I ran away from my family and held back from liking anyone
But now...
OF COURSE NOT!

Even if it's going to be really slow, I'm starting to feel that I can face everything and move on.
HEY, KITAOKA-SAN
YEAH?
IS IT OKAY TO LIKE YOU?
END

Home Sick Baby

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